Wildlife conservation and co-operation between India and US

2010. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a move for wild-life conservation and cooperation between India and the USA, before the US President's visit; and

(b) if so, what agreement or understanding has been reached in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. India has conveyed its consent to join the global Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT) through which it will collaborate in the fight against illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife parts. In addition, the India-US Joint Statement issued on March 2, 2006 also welcomed the opportunity to strengthen long pending work on the conservation of wildlife through cooperation on park management and ecotourism.

Death of seagulls in Lakhota Lake

2011. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:
SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 500 seagulls died recently in Jamnagar's Lokhota lake in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the lake has now turned into a graveyard for migratory birds;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As reported by the Government of Gujarat, death of seagulls had occurred in the Lakhota lake as a result of food poisoning.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Awareness campaigns have been launched with success, to make the people stop feeding the birds with human food. Efforts have also been stepped up to clean the environment of the lake in coordination with the district agencies.

Irrigation projects in Game Sanctuaries

2012. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to allow different State Governments to build irrigation projects and flood the existing game sanctuaries;

(b) if so, the name of sanctuaries whether Government have allowed forest and environmental approval which will involve massive flooding of game sanctuaries;

(c) what are the reasons for this benign attitude on the part of Government; and

(d) whether Government have suggested amendments to the existing Wildlife Protection Act to allow flooding of game sanctuaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) There is no general approval allowing the State Governments to construct irrigation projects in Protected Areas. The project proposals submitted by the State Governments involving Protected Areas are placed before the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife for consideration and recommendations before seeking permission from Hon'ble Supreme Court and clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act. Since April, 2005, no Forest Clearance to any irrigation project involving Sanctuary areas has been given. Environmental Clearance has been given only in one case *viz.* Indira Sagar Irrigation Project (Polavaram) in Andhra Pradesh which includes part of Wildlife Sanctuary. During the same period the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife has recommended four irrigation proposals in (i) Radhanagari Sanctuary, Maharashtra (ii) Maldhok Bird Sanctuary, Maharashtra (iii) Mayureshwar Sanctuary, Maharashtra and (iv) Dalma Sanctuary, Jharkhand.